(d) As can be seen from the above, the cost of production of steel (based on flat products) in India is more than the cost in Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, Brazil, CIS and China.

Import of steel, pig iron and scrap

2915. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of steel, pig iron and scrap imported during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange involved during each year, on import of steel, pig iron and scrap;

(c) the reasons for failure of public sector steel plants for not meeting the demand of pig iron and scrap of the country; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Details of the volume and value in respect of imports of steel (finished carbon steel), pig iron and scrap for 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (April—December) are given below:

Qty. in '000 tonnes
Value in Rs. Crore

Period	Steel		Pig Iron		Scrap	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1999-2000	1600	2525	2.5	2.40	1076.3	584.25
2000-2001	1417	2322	1.8	2.03	1512.4	944.52
April—December, 2001 (provisional)	1005	1707	0.9	1.05	1464.0	897.0

(c) and (d) Pig iron produced as a by product during the process of steel making by major steel producers, including those in the public sector, is not a value added product and hence is not profitable.

Further, the level of silicon content in such pig iron is not of the requisite level for usage in foundry. In regard to scrap, adoption of modern state of the art technology in place of earlier obsolete technology by the steel industry has reduced the quantum generation of scrap. Thus, the public sector steel units not producing sufficient pig iron and scrap to meet domestic demand can not be considered as failure. A number of mini blast furnaces, producing pig iron of different grades at a cheaper cost have been established in different parts of the country. The use of scrap in steel making through induction furnace/electric arc furnace has also been largely replaced by Direct Reduce Iron (DRI). Although the developments on the pig iron and DRI front have been mainly the result of private initiative, Government encouragement and support such as special electricity rates given to DRI units in the Eastern Region, have supported such initiative.

Market price of steel

2916. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the production cost of steel, unit-wise;

(b) the amount of tax imposed on steel;

(c) the average market price of steel;

(d) the amount of profit on it; and

(e) the steps taken to reduce the price of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The Indian steel industry consists of a whole range of production facilities—from primary steel making to rolling/downstream processing of finished products. The production takes place in integrated plants and also in stand-alone modules confined to a particular stage of production. The cost of production in each production unit varies according to the technology adopted, the particular stage of production in a modular/integrated unit, the